

REMARKS

Entry of the above amendment to the specification and claims is respectfully requested.

The present continuation application has been amended to include a reference to the parent application. Additionally, the application has been amended to cancel claims 1-13 and 16-21, and claim 14 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 13 to be in independent form.

Further, as the Examiner provided a Final Rejection of former claims 13-15 in the parent application, Applicant provides the following arguments concerning the patentability of claims 14-15 for the present application.

In the parent application, the Examiner rejected claims 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,987,025 to Hokari (hereinafter “Hokari”). Specifically, the Examiner alleges that Hokari discloses a receiving section for receiving a cell from an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) network and de-multiplexing the cell into a signaling cell and a voice cell, a cell assembling/disassembling section, a detecting section for detecting whether or not a relay switch operation is being carried out, a cell assembling section and a transmitting section, similar to the method of claim 14.

However, the present invention, as recited in independent claim 14, recites adding an identification signal to the voice signal to produce a first voice signal and sending the first voice signal to a switch, and detecting that the relay switch operation is being carried out when the first voice signal is received from the switch. Further, the identification signal is composed of a synchronous signal.

The Examiner alleges that Hokari, in Col. 4, line 20, and Col. 5, lines 31-67, that a synchronous identification signal is added to the voice signal and is sent to a switch. However,

Hokari, in the cited section by the Examiner, discloses that when a central control unit 42 determines that the called subscriber is a subscriber wherein a relay connection is required at a step 203, the step 203 is succeeded by a step 205 at which the central control unit 46 determines whether or not any CLAD unit exists in a destination of the relay connection by referring to the CLAD identification information 43a stored in the main memory unit 43.

The present invention teaches adding an identification signal to the voice signal to produce a first voice signal, then sending the first voice signal to a switch. It then detects that the relay switch operation is being carried out when the first voice signal is received from the switch. This is a different method of detecting a relay switch operation than that of Hokari.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 14-15 are patentable over the cited reference, as Hokari fails to the elements of the claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 14-15.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorney would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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